

STIMULANTS.

The Craving for Them an Almost Universal Appetite.

The desire or craving for stimulants is the most general sense of the word—for drugs acting upon the nerves whether as excitant or sedative agents—is an almost, if not absolutely, universal human appetite; so general, so early developed, that we might almost call it an instinct. Alcohol, of course, is the most popular, under ordinary circumstances the most selective, and by far the most widely diffused of all stimulant substances. From the Euphrates to the Straits of Dover the vine has been in popular esteem second only to bread, the most prized wine, next to bread, the most prized tonic, and the universal article of human food. The connection between Ceres and Bacchus is found in almost every language as in the social life of every nation, from the earliest Assyrian Monarchy, to the modern French Republic and German Empire. Corn is in popularity to wine alone; wheat second in popularity to the fierce, sterner races of Northern Europe—Sweden, Norway and Denmark, St. Olaf and Harald, as their descendants to-day; and the ale of our own Saxons and Scandinavians, which neither wine, spirit, cider, nor Spanish wine has superseded, is still the favorite beverage. The vine, again, seems to have been native to America, and to have been cultivated by the primitive or semi-civilized races of the southern and central part of the Western Continent had other more popular and more peculiar stimulants, also, for the most part alcoholic. The palm, again, has furnished to the African and Asiatic tribes a spirit not less potent or less costly than wine, and probably less primitive than whisky or beer. But where alcohol has been unknown, among races to whose habits and temperaments it was alien, or in climates where so powerful an excitant produced effects so palpably deleterious as to be tolerated by rulers or law-givers royal or priestly, and milder stimulants and sedatives are found in equally universal use. Till the white man introduced among them his own destructive beverages, till the "fire-water" spread demoralization and disease, tobacco was the favorite indulgence of the red Indians of North America, and very probably of that mighty race which preceded them and seems to have disappeared before they came upon the scene—the Mound-builders, whose gigantic works bear testimony to the existence of an agriculture scarcely less advanced or less prolific, a despotism probably no less absolute than that of Egypt, coffee has for ages been almost equally dear to the Arab; tea has been to China all that wine is to Europe, and has taken hold on the Northern, as coffee and tobacco on the Southern, branches of the Tartar race. Opium, or drugs resembling opium in character, have been found as early as the Tatars, as delightful to the taste, of the quieter and more passive Oriental race as wine to the Aryan and Semitic nations. The Malays, the Vikings of the East Indies, found in bang a drug the most exciting and maddening in its effects of any known to civilized or uncivilized man; a substitute for opium or hashish bearing much the same relation to those sedatives as brandy or whisky to the light wines of Southern Europe.—*National Review.*

The Mission of Russia.

Will there be war between England and Russia? Is the great question now agitating Europe. The *Herald* has during the past few days published from its correspondents in Paris and London a series of noteworthy interviews, which, while not settling the question definitely one way or the other, have afforded interesting sidelight on the view European, and especially British, public men have of looking upon the difficulties that have arisen upon the Afghan frontier. Unfortunately for England her statesmen and public men see Russia only through Indian spectacles. Every Russian movement is looked upon by them as a fresh step in the advance on England's Eastern empire. The report of a Cossack spear half a hundred miles from Herat is enough to send them quite off their usual balance, rendering them almost incapable of looking at facts as they are or discussing the absolute necessities of the future. It is an unworthy fear for her Indian possessions that makes English statesmen incapable of understanding Russia, makes her listen to the vapors of the poet of the "Light of Asia," and her conservative statesmen to cry out in despair, "Oh, for an hour of Beaconsfield!" and her liberals, "Or, rather fifteen minutes of Palmerston!" These dominating cries are the ghosts of the dead statesmen are doubtless a fair expression of the general desire of the English people. The spirit of hatred of everything Russian is unfortunately the same now as in the days of Palmerston and the Crimean war, when the attempt was made to stop the growth of a mighty people by humiliating stipulations which were broken and flung in the face of Europe at the first favorable opportunity. It is the same spirit that under the Beaconsfield regime developed into the mockery of Jingoism and achieved a hollow success in preventing the fulfillment of Russia's dreams at a moment when that Power stood before the gates of Constantinople exhausted, after a long and bloody campaign. Does England intend still to keep up her opposition to Russia at every point in Europe and in Asia? It seems as though to impartial judges it would be for her, instead of calling on the shades of departed statesmen, to cast about her for a great guiding principle, instead of attempting to repeat the rule of the old lady who tried with her wits to stop the waves of the sea, Russia is able to recognize the fact that Russia has undoubted rights both in Asia and in Europe, which some day or other she is certain to insist upon.

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with her head bedded in eternal snows and her feet resting among beautiful spring flowers. She has long felt the necessity of putting her head where her feet have been, of opening up the vast commerce of her Asiatic dominions, which she is developing, and of shaking off the last of the humiliating conditions hampering her entrance to and egress from her southern dominions, and England will eventually have to submit to these necessities being fulfilled or be prepared to oppose them alone. Can she do so?—*New York Herald*, March 19.

Buffalo Church and Theatre Burned.

BUFFALO, March 25.—This evening an attaché of the Music Hall was lighting the gas above the stage, the drop fly took fire from a defective burner. In an instant the whole stage was in flames, and in six minutes the entire building was burning. The McCall Opera Company was dressing preparatory to the production of "Falka," and had barely time to escape, some only partially dressed. The company lost their entire wardrobe for the operas of "Falka," "The Little Duke," and "The Queen's Lace Handkerchief." The company had most of their trunks brought to the building, and these were consumed also. Very few persons had arrived to witness the performance, and all escaped without injury.

Brought to Bay.

Plunkett McCook, an ex-member of the Texas Legislature, was tried for highway robbery and found guilty. Judge Noonan, before passing sentence asked the prisoner: "Prisoner, if you know of any mitigating circumstances you are at liberty to state them."

"Yes, I was ruined by my associates in the Legislature. I don't know of any other mitigating circumstances except that I was in hopes that by improving my financial condition I might be improved morally."

His honor, in passing sentence, remarked cynically that it should be a lesson to the prisoner to know that as long as he was in the penitentiary he would be atoning in a manner for the injuries he had inflicted on the people by his career of crime in the Legislature.—*Texas Siftings.*

A Shrewd Newspaper Fellow.

KANSAS CITY, March 25.—J. Harvey Mott, professed spiritualist and medium, who, during the past year has made converts of a number of prominent citizens and been visited by persons from all parts of the country, and from Europe, was exposed to-night, through a ruse by J. B. Lawrence, managing editor of the *Journal*. Mr. Lawrence obtained an interview, and when the medium appeared as a spirit through a small jet of analysis solution in his face. Then he had him arrested for obtaining money under false pretenses, officers being held in waiting for the purpose. Mott gave bonds for his appearance Thursday.

Cocaine, the new anesthetic,

has greatly relieved Gen. Grant's sufferings, and as it may be used to produce local insensibility, without affecting the general consciousness, its value promises to be exceedingly great. The fact that it has been used in Gen. Grant's case has given it especial prominence in recent discussions, and in his address before the Women's Medical College, of Pennsylvania, Dr. Keen, the distinguished professor of surgery, urged that its discovery ought to silence the objections to vivisection, for without experiments on animals its value would still remain unknown. It will not silence Henry Bergh, of course, but the great majority of people will not condemn vivisection if only it is practised as humanely as possible, and never unnecessarily.

Is bad cooking the cause of a large amount of intemperance?

The Boston *Traveler* asserts that it is, and pronounces the average cooking of the poorer classes of families in our American cities, "both wasteful and barbarous," concluding its arraignment with an appeal for free cooking schools to make the poor women of America excel in the preparation of food as notably as do the French peasantry. Whatever the effect of bad cooking upon intemperance, it is certainly productive of much of the unhappiness which takes its victims into the divorce courts.

"FATHER," he said, as he came running in from school, "did you ever drill an oil well and make \$50,000?"

"No, my son, I never did."

"I was in hopes you had, for I wanted to brag to the boys."

"Well, you can tell 'em that, although I never drilled an oil well and made \$50,000, an oil broker once drilled me and made \$75,000, which is about the same thing, I guess."—*Wall Street News.*

THREE thousand nine hundred and twenty-nine dogs, 1,916 rats, 349 cats, 191 chickens, 130 rabbits, 23 specimens of diseased meat, 7 geese, 3 turkeys, 2 hogs, 2 sheep, 1 goat, 1 pig, 1 calf and one monkey were fished out of the River Seine last summer. To these may be reasonably added some drowned men and women and a dash of murdered infants. And this is their drinking-water!

—Medical World.

PROFESSOR BLACKIE, of Edinburgh, expresses the opinion that the newspaper interview is a sensible institution; but he complains that in reports of his public addresses the "lively passages" appear to the exclusion of his calm judgments on matters of deep import. Nevertheless, he thinks "there is far too much of everything nowadays; far too much eating, far too much drinking, far too much preaching, far too much writing, far too much speaking."

A FEW nights ago a manager of a skating rink in Massillon, O., turned a pig loose upon the floor of the rink. For the amusement of the spectators a half-dozen boys attempted to catch the animal for a prize. The porker was greased and not injured a particle. Next day the manager was arrested for cruelty to animals, and fined \$14.25 and costs.

MISSOURI has a bill before its Legislature requiring managers of circuses and shows to perform all they advertise. Some of the Missourians have likely become disgusted by the lack of harmony between the gorgeous scenes represented upon the posters and the sickly reality.

A NEW YORK lady who recently had the pleasure of seeing much of Mr. Riskin socially, says that the famous critic blushed scarlet when he was indicted in conversation at immediately leaves the room, but, so long as his views are not opposed, is a most delightful and tireless talker.

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